

**Land & Water
Conservation Committee**

Tom Rudolph, Chair
Wilbur Petroskey, Vice-Chair
Matt Matteson
Jack Martinson
Guy Hansen
Rod Kuczmarski, FSA Member



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LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE and TIME: Tuesday, August 22, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Rm. 1 (second floor)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rudolph, Petroskey, Matteson, Martinson, (Hansen and Kuczmarski – excused absences)

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Hollands, Barb Payne, Jean Hansen, and Fred Heider (NCWRPC)

Call to order and Chairman's announcements –

Meeting was called to order in the Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room 1 at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Rudolph, who indicated that this meeting is a public meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee, which was properly posted and the media was notified.

MOTION (Matteson/Petroskey), to approve the current agenda. The minutes will be provided before the next LWCC meeting in September. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Set date for next meeting –

The LWCC committee meeting for September 7th is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. and the meeting for October 11th is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Rudolph informed the Committee that the North Central Association Fall Conference would be held on October 26th in Wausau. The Committee discussed the Land & Water Resource Management Plan presentation to the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board and the Oneida County Board.

Public Comments –

There were no public comments.

Wildlife Damage Program –

Hollands reported to the Committee that Lake Nokomis Cranberries had been contacted and notified about the issues concerning the shipping of the shell crackers and Homeland Security due to the September 11th event. Hollands said she is waiting to hear from Lake Nokomis Cranberries to determine if they want to proceed with the purchase of the shell crackers. She stated they would qualify for reimbursement through the Wildlife Damage Program. Matteson reported that he had talked to Freda Waalkens about her fencing to stop the bear damage to her beehives. Freda said the bears had made an attempt to break into the fence, but they failed. The concrete building and the electric fencing have worked well so far.

County Cost Share Program –

Jean Hansen reported that Phebus has decided not to go with the lowest bidder. The contractor they have chosen is Jim Trapp of Quality Excavating. Hansen and Stacy Dehne, the engineer, will meet with Phebus' and the Contractor this Friday. Bernard Farbiak was the landowner on Horsehead Lake that had questioned Rudolph regarding his project. Farbiak had received a cost-share grant application in September of 2005. The LTE Conservation Specialist did an initial site visit in November of 2005. Jean Hansen said she had talked Farbiak on the phone and told him that there weren't any funds available for 2006. He was put on the list for a future visit.

Calendar Year 2007 Staffing Request –

Hollands reported she had submitted the proposal on the copier for the second floor offices to the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Hollands stated she used the same copier and cost estimate the Planning & Zoning used for their Minocqua Office. The estimate was \$5,400.00.

Hollands met with Lisa Charbarneau from Employee Services to discuss the criteria needed to hire a full-time AIS Coordinator. Lisa stated that the position didn't meet the requirements for the "Professional" non-union status, so we should use the "Union" criteria. The position would be 1,950 hours annually. It would be a grade 11 level position at a hire rate of \$15.66 per hour. Rudolph commented that he feels it is time for Oneida County to take the steps needed to implement the hiring of a person to deal with the Aquatic Invasive Species issues on a full time basis. Matteson stated that even if the AIS Coordinator were hired for a short term of several years, the workload would be established and easier to maintain in the future. The Committee signed the approval for a full-time AIS Coordinator with Kuczmarski and Hansen being absent. The Committee had previously approved the request for a full-time AIS Coordinator at their June 28th meeting. The deadline for submitting the 2007 Staffing Requests is August 28th. Martinson commented that from what he has observed the counties should be applying for Federal monies

Review /Approval Land & Water Resource Management Plan –

Fred Heider of North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission arrived at 2:15 p.m. to review the latest draft of the plan with the Committee. The committee and staff reviewed the plan page by page. Rudolph asked the Committee to further review the latest draft of the plan on their own and give Hollands a call with any changes or suggestions they might have.

MOTION (Martinson/Matteson) to authorize Chairman Rudolph to work with Fred Heider and Nancy Hollands on any further revisions or changes that need to be made to the Land & Water Resource Management Plan. Motion carried, all voting aye.

MOTION (Petroskey/Matteson) to approve the overall Land & Water Resource Management Five-Year Plan as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Non – Native Aquatic Invasive Species (Grants/Resolution)

Hollands prepared a resolution, which was presented to the committee for their review and approval. The resolution is a proposal by the Land & Water Conservation Department and the Land & Water Conservation Committee to obtain an estimated grant of \$5,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The LWCD and the LWCC will meet the County's 50% share (\$5,000) of the financial obligation for the aquatic invasive species educational project, for a total of \$10,000.

We will accomplish the in-kind grant match through the assignment of Department personnel to work on the project, including timely publication of the results. The Committee made the suggestion to add calendar year 2007 to the Resolution. This Resolution will then be submitted to the County Board for approval at their September 12th County Board Meeting.

MOTION (Petroskey/Martinson) to approve the resolution applying for a \$5,000 grant from the WDNR, with the LWCD/LWCC meeting the County's 50% share of the financial obligation for the aquatic invasive species grant. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Jean Hansen attended a workshop on July 25th in Park Falls. This was an Aquatic Invasive Species Information Exchange. Hansen provided handouts to the committee that she had obtained from this workshop. Hansen explained that the agenda was broken up into several different areas: AIS Public Awareness, Current AIS Projects, AIS Grants/Funding, AIS Research, AIS Management Strategies, and Interagency AIS Information Exchanges in the future. Attendance included four County Representatives (Lincoln, Oneida, Sawyer, & Vilas), and representatives from UWEX, DNR, USFS, and GLIFWIC.

Hollands stated that Judge Mangerson called and asked if someone from our Department would give an AIS presentation to the Kiwanis Club for their August 30th meeting? Jean Hansen agreed to give the presentation on the 30th.

Report on Four County Meeting, August 17, 2006 –

Hollands reported that Florence County was the host for the Four County Meeting that was held in Aurora on August 17th. The meeting was scheduled to be held at Chair Yvonne Van Pembrook's home, but the Lakeland Times questioned Hollands as to why the meeting was being held at a private residence. After talking with the Margie Yadro, Florence County Conservation Specialist, and Yvonne VanPembrook, Florence County Land Conservation Committee Chairperson, it was decided to hold the meeting at the Aurora Town Hall. The lunch was held at Yvonne's home following the four-county meeting. The Committee commented that these meetings are a very good opportunity for multiple counties to share information with one another. Hollands stated that Oneida County would be the host county for the next Four County Meeting, which will be held on April 26, 2007.

Hollands reported that Forest County would not be renewing their contract with Oneida County for 2007. Hollands said she would still verbally help Forest County if they called and had questions for 2007. Hollands stated that it would be Forest County's total responsibility to handle their own reports and other administrative work for 2007. She stated that she would give them a call and inform them if they need help with any of the reporting, they should request it before the end of the year. Florence County still hasn't decided if they will renew their contract with Oneida County in 2007. Hollands reported that the Florence County Personnel Committee would be considering upgrading Margie Yadro's position from a Conservation Specialist to a County Conservationist in the near future.

Lake Districts/Agency Report (FSA, NRCS, LWCD, UWEX, DNR, LWCB, WLWCA, & RC&D) -

Lake Districts Report –

Petroskey stated that he had nothing to report on the Mid Lake District.

Hansen was absent so there was no report given for the Thunder Lake District.

Martinson stated that he had nothing to report on the Bear Lake District.

Rudolph reported the Horsehead Lake District held their annual meeting on August 5th. Jean Hansen gave an AIS presentation at the meeting. Rudolph complimented Hansen on her good presentation. Rudolph stated that the people who attended really enjoyed the AIS presentation. They remarked they had been educated on the importance of preventing Aquatic Invasive Species before it is introduced into our lakes. Rudolph reported the Horsehead Lake District is reapplying for a grant to have a lake study done on vegetation. They have done weed harvesting in the past. They have a problem with natural vegetation that is taking over in abundant proportions. Rudolph commented there was considerable development around the lake in recent years that may have contributed to the escalated growth of vegetation in the lake. Rudolph commented the Horsehead Lake District members are a very active group with good ideas.

FSA –

No report was given.

NRCS –

No report was given.

LWCD –

Hollands report she has spent an extensive amount of time with Fred Heider, NCWRPC, working through the new Land & Water Resource Management Plan. Paul Dean, a county board supervisor, requested some AIS information for the Moen's Lake Association. Hollands said the staff prepared packets of information for distribution. The Staff created folders named, "Conservation Bits & Pieces" and "Aquatic Invasive Species". In these packets there is abundant Conservation information to share with anyone who expresses an interest. Staff time spent on preparation of the Aquatic Invasive Species folder packets can be applied to the grant match required for our DNR Grant.

Hollands informed the Committee that as of August 1st, the Land & Water Conservation Department went live on the County Wide receipting. This is a method where Information Technology Services Department trained employees from the County Departments to record their financial transactions on the County AS400 Computer System.

Hollands reminded the Committee of the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association Summer Tour that will be held on August 24th. This year's tour is being hosted by Wood County and is being held in Wisconsin Rapids.

Jean Hansen reported that the Lake Planning Grant would end this year. Hansen attended a two-hour training on Citizen Lake Monitoring taught by Sandy Wickman at the Rhinelander DNR Office. Hansen commented that it was a very good training session to attend.

UWEX –

No report was given.

DNR –

No report was given.

LWCD –

Rudolph reported that he had attended a Land Water Conservation Board Meeting that was held in Winnebago County.

WLWCA –

Rudolph reported that the WLWCA Board of Directors is in the process of hiring an executive director for the association to replace Rebecca Baumann.

RC&D –

Rudolph reported the RC&D Council meeting would be held in Oconto County on October 24th. Rudolph reported he would be attending the State Council meeting which will be held in Plover on August 31st.

Monthly Budget Review –

MOTION (Matteson/Petroskey) to approve the July 2006 Expense Analyses for both the Land & Water Conservation Department budget and the Wildlife Damage budget as presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Travel Authorization –

There wasn't any travel authorization required at this meeting.

Approval of invoices, purchase orders, and line item transfers –

There were no invoices, purchase orders, or line item transfers at this meeting.

Hollands reported to the Committee that in the future there would need to be a line item transfer for the advertising of the Typist II position and the publication of the Public Hearing Notice.

Items for the next meeting agenda – The 2007 Annual Budget, The AIS Coordinator job description, and the calculations for the AIS position supplied by Margie Sorensen in the Finance Department.

Adjourn –

With all business being concluded, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. by MOTION (Matteson/Martinson). Motion carried, all voting aye.

Thomas Rudolph
Chairman

Nancy Hollands
County Conservationist